

William T. "Ron" Roberts, Jr.
Chair

Roland M. Toups.
Vice Chair

Frances T. Henry
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253
FAX (225) 342-9318

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Robert W. Levy
William "Bill" Oliver
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Norbert A. Simmons
William Clifford Smith
Pat A. Strong
Artis Terrell, Jr.
Steven Sumbler
Student Member

April 24, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Regents Receive Report On 2002-03 EPAS Results

The Board of Regents today received the results of the 2002-03 statewide administration of the ACT EPAS assessment, a Regents-funded initiative designed to assist middle- and high-school students in preparing for college and careers. According to ACT, the good news is that this year's results show more than six thousand sophomores already have achieved the equivalent of an ACT score of 20 or higher, an increase over last year. In addition, African-American student scores have improved.

This year EPAS was administered to 42,780 eighth graders and 37,424 tenth graders, representing every school district in the state.

While the results show improvements, for a majority of the participants today's results reveal an important need to address the gap between academic expectations and the new university admissions requirements. According to the report, 67% of the eighth graders who took the test plan to go to college, but only 31% are planning to take a college prep high school program. For sophomores, some 76% who participated indicated that they plan to attend college but about half of the tenth-grade participants are not on target for being "college ready." The state's *Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education* calls on all four-year institutions to implement admission standards which will require completion of a college preparatory curriculum in order to enroll.

"The data on the disparity between what our eighth and tenth graders say they intend to do and what they are on track to do is a great example of the value of EPAS," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. "We're now getting a true picture of the disconnects that can negatively impact college access and success in time for adjustments to be made. Now our job will focus on raising student awareness regarding admission requirements and working with middle and high schools to ensure that academic gaps are immediately addressed."

To increase public awareness, campuses throughout the state plan to once again host recruiting fairs, beginning next week, aimed at 8th, 9th and 10th graders (a copy of the schedule is attached). To address academic shortcomings, statewide workshops have been held to review the ACT "standards of

transition,” a crosswalk that identifies specific skills that must be addressed in order for students to increase their academic readiness.

(More)

EPAS Results

ADD ONE

In addition to measuring achievement in English, mathematics, science and reasoning, EPAS also includes a student interest inventory, which helps students, parents and counselors better understand how a student’s abilities and interests can be matched with college curricula and, ultimately, career opportunities.

“These results speak volumes to students, their parents, and their teachers and counselors,” said Commissioner Savoie. “The EPAS assessment is both providing our individual students with a personalized guide to their educational and career futures *and* it’s providing a blueprint for instructional improvements.”

Parents of student participants will receive information on their child’s individual scores and career interests. School principals, teachers and counselors will receive overall school scores to assist them in addressing students’ identified needs, career interests and any identified academic gaps.

Freshman Fair Tentative Locations, Dates and Times

Host Site	Date	Contact Name	Contact Phone #
Southern – Baton Rouge	Wednesday, April 30, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Velva Thomas	(225)771-2430
Southeastern Louisiana University	Saturday, May 3, 2003 – 10 a.m.	Chris McLellan	(985)549-5235
UL – Lafayette	Saturday, May 3, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Gwen Taylor	(337)482-5923
Nicholls State University	Monday, May 5, 2003 – 6 p.m.	Amy Trainor	(985)448-4155
UL – Monroe	Thursday, May 8, 2003 – 6 p.m.	Lisa Miller	(318)342-5430
University of New Orleans	Saturday, May 10, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Joe Cruse	(504)280-6598
Northwestern State University	Thursday, May 15, 2003 – 9 a.m.	April Jordan	(318)357-4503
LSU – Alexandria	Friday, May 16, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Shelly Kieffer	(318)473-6508
LSU – Baton Rouge	Saturday, May 17, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Andy Benoit	(225)578-4335
LSU – Shreveport	Thursday, May 22, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Kristy Paul	(318)797-5061
McNeese State University	Friday, August 1, 2003 - TBA	John Martin	(337)475-5506

